



# *City of Fairfax*

***Mayor R. Scott Silverthorne***

*City Council*

*Michael J. DeMarco  
Daniel F. Drummond  
Jeffrey C. Greenfield*

*David L. Meyer  
Eleanor D. Schmidt  
Steven C. Stombres*

December 13, 2013

Dear City Resident/Water Customer,

On behalf of the Members of the City Council, I am writing you to give you the status of your water service transition to Fairfax Water on January 3, 2014. After that date, your water will be supplied by Fairfax Water from the Corbalis Water Treatment Plant on the Potomac River.

As you may recall from various informational mailings we have sent you in months past, the city has determined that the time is right to sell the city's water system for the financial benefit of its customers. This was not an easy or quick decision. The city's first generation of leadership took the bold step in the late 1950s of creating a water supply and treatment works in Loudoun County, and that arrangement served the city well for decades. The economics of operating a small water system have changed dramatically since those early days. The issue is, simply, that a larger water system, such as Fairfax Water operates, can deliver the best technology for treating water at a lower cost. The city's system is small, currently needing an expensive overhaul, meaning ever-increasing rates compared to those of our neighbors served by Fairfax Water.

The agreement with Fairfax Water states that the city's current fiscal year 2013-14 water rates charged to its current city and county customers on its water system will not increase for the next three years and would be adopted by Fairfax Water as the new water rates for former city water system customers. At some point, and not later than three years from now, those rates charged by Fairfax Water will be adjusted to water rates charged to all their non-city customers. Current Fairfax Water rates are below the now-frozen city rates.

You do not need to do anything, or even contact Fairfax Water, to prepare for the change in water service. As part of the sale of the water system, the city “purchased” water capacity on your behalf for your property, permanently. All you need to do is continue paying for water service as you do now.

In early January, you will receive an information packet from Fairfax Water informing you of their services, how and when the Fairfax Water bill arrangements will be handled and how you can contact them when necessary. We expect that every customer in the city will continue to receive the same high-quality service that has been the hallmark of the city’s water service.

Also, this month you will receive a letter from the City of Fairfax Utilities Department explaining the billing procedure for this transition. If you have any questions regarding billing after you receive the letter, feel free to call the Utilities Department directly at 703-385-7915.

I want to thank you for your support of the city and its water system over the decades. It has been our pleasure to produce the water on which our daily lives depend in so many ways. Further, I want to thank the incredibly dedicated group of men and women who have made it possible: the employees of our water system. It is exceedingly difficult to say goodbye to them, and I am pleased to report that each employee has been offered new employment with Fairfax Water or Loudoun Water. Several will probably continue to serve the city’s service area after employment with Fairfax Water because they know the system — and customers — so well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Silverthorne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

R. Scott Silverthorne  
Mayor

cc: Honorable Members of City Council